

China FETP

Background and Goals

Established in 2001, the China Field Epidemiology Training Program (C-FETP) aims to strengthen China's disease surveillance, applied epidemiology, and response capacity for its 1.3 billion people. The C-FETP is headquartered in Beijing.

This hands-on program trains public health leaders while providing epidemiologic services to health authorities in China. The wide variety of field investigations and other projects that C-FETP residents perform during their training provides decision-makers and other key constituencies with the highest quality recommendations and information to help guide China's public health policy and practice.

Program Objectives

The primary objective of the C-FETP is to develop and strengthen China's disease surveillance, field epidemiology, and response capacity by training a network of field epidemiologists competent in the practical application of epidemiologic methods to address a wide range of public health problems, including emerging infectious diseases.

Program Structure

The C-FETP is a 2-year in-service training program in applied epidemiology. It trains public health leaders while providing epidemiologic services to health authorities in China.

Residents spend 25% of their time in classroom instruction and 75% in field assignments. They take courses in epidemiology, communications, economics, and management. In addition, residents frequently travel to all parts of China to conduct epidemiologic investigations and field surveys, evaluate surveillance systems, and perform disease control and prevention measures. They report their findings to policy- and decision-makers and train other health workers.



The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), through its Division of Public Health Systems and Workforce Development, is supporting the program by assigning two experienced

resident advisors who provide technical assistance in the development of training materials, teach and mentor program residents, and give consultation on priority public health issues in China.

Funding and Partnerships

- CDC
- China Ministry of Health
- Provincial and municipal CDCs (Anhui, Chongqing, Fujian, Guangdong, Jiangsu, Shangdong, Shanghai, Sichuan, and Zhejiang)
- World Health Organization - China



Program Accomplishments

As of 2009, the program has graduated 80 residents and has 36 residents enrolled.

The C-FETP conducts approximately 50 investigations per year, on a wide range of public health problems, including, most notably, SARS in 2003, but also avian influenza, HIV/AIDS, brucellosis, paratyphoid fever, measles, meningococcal meningitis, and other public health emergencies of national concerns.

Following are some examples of activities conducted by the C-FETP.

- In 2005, two C-FETP abstracts describing adenovirus and paratyphoid outbreak investigations were accepted for presentation (from more than a hundred submitted) at CDC's EIS Conference International night in Atlanta. The latter, documenting a large outbreak of waterborne paratyphoid fever attributed to a contaminated well in a rural junior high school won the prestigious William Foege award for best presentation by a developing country.
- In 2006, C-FETP was made a permanent part of the China CDC, Office of Epidemiology. With the emergence of avian influenza worldwide, China CDC has tasked C-FETP to lead the agency's surveillance, epidemiology, and response activities for avian influenza.
- In 2007, C-FETP was instrumental in gathering and presenting solid epidemiological data explaining cases of paraplegia among leukemia patients. This led to a national recall of methotrexate and cytosine arabinoside from one national pharmaceutical manufacturer.
- In 2007, C-FETP received \$920,000 in grants (\$720,000 from the MOH and \$200,000 from the Ministry of Science and Technology) for the ongoing investigation of sudden death clusters among remote villagers in Yunnan Province. C-FETP faculty and trainees have already contributed to a wide range of field studies investigating sudden death clusters during the past several years, including investigating the potential contributions of environmental, nutritional, and infectious disease factors.
- In 2008, C-FETP was involved in several high-profile investigations and events, including the May 12 earthquake in southern Sichuan, the response to elevated melamine in infant formulas, and public health surveillance during the Summer Olympics in Beijing. In addition, the program offered new emergency and veterinary training.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Center for Global Health

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